

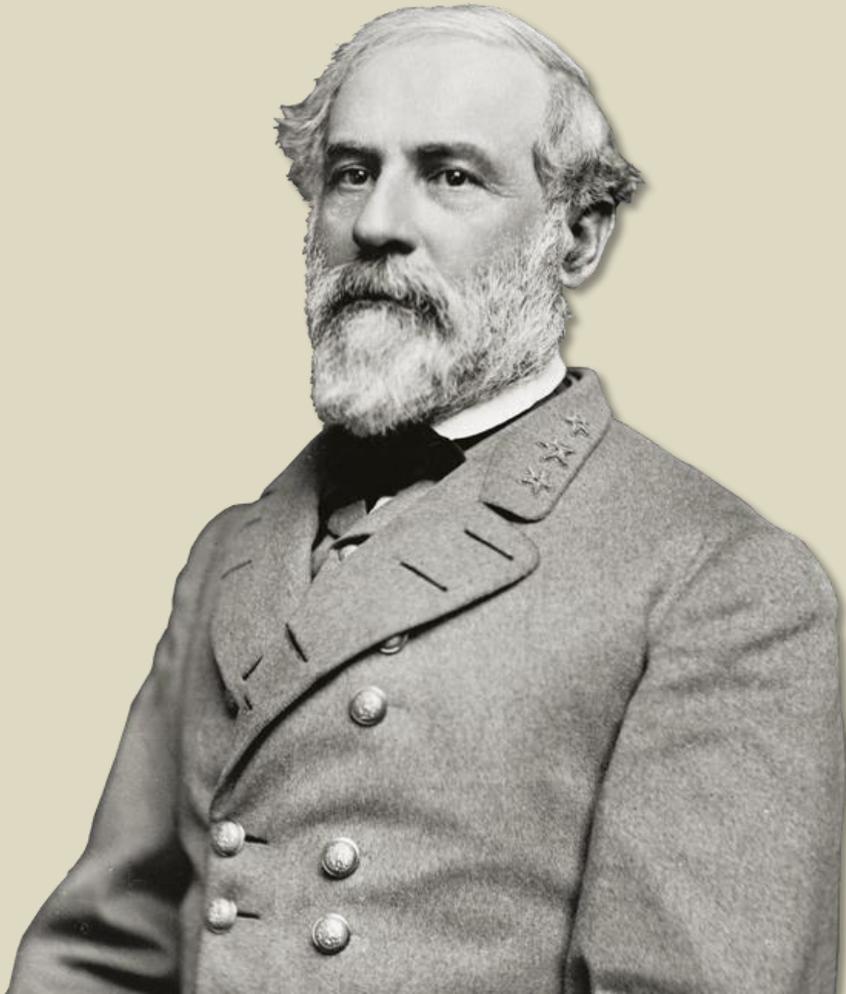
The Battle of Antietam

September 17, 1862



The Two Commanders

Robert E. Lee (CSA)



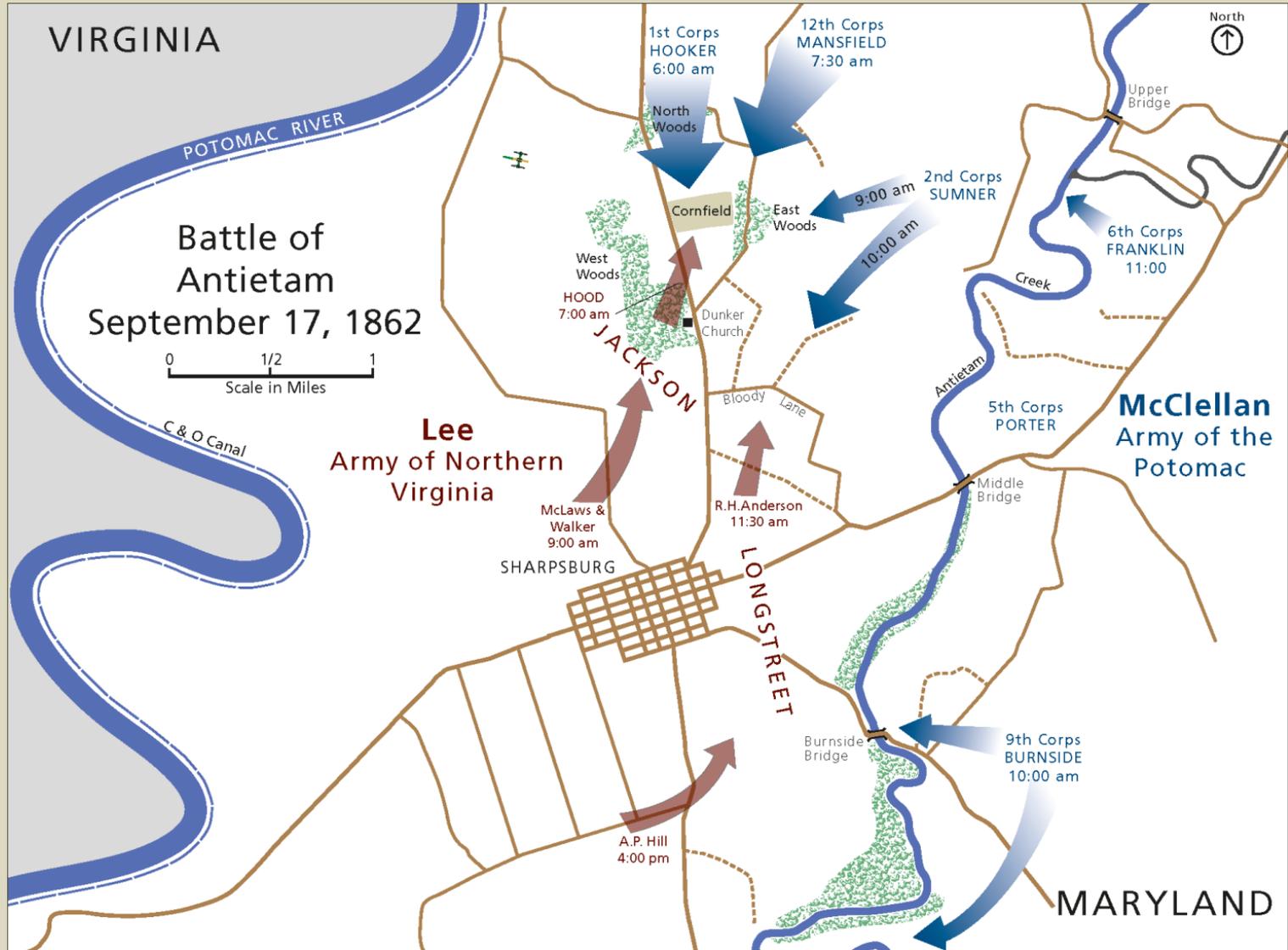
George B. McClellan (USA)



General Robert E. Lee's reasons for invading Maryland

- To gather supplies and troops from the slave-holding border state of Maryland.
- To give the farmers in Virginia time to bring in their crops for the winter.
- To get military or political support from France and Great Britain.
- To damage Northern morale before the November elections.
- To bring the war north and threaten Washington, DC and other Northern cities.
- Defeat the Union army once and for all.

Battle Map



Death in the Cornfield

The Cornfield and Dunker Church area saw some of U.S. History's most horrific fighting. For nearly three hours Union and Confederate forces battled each other and were cut to pieces.



Bloody Lane

Outnumbered Confederates in the Sunken Road were able to withstand a Union frontal attack, but their line collapsed when flanked, resulting in tremendous casualties on both sides.



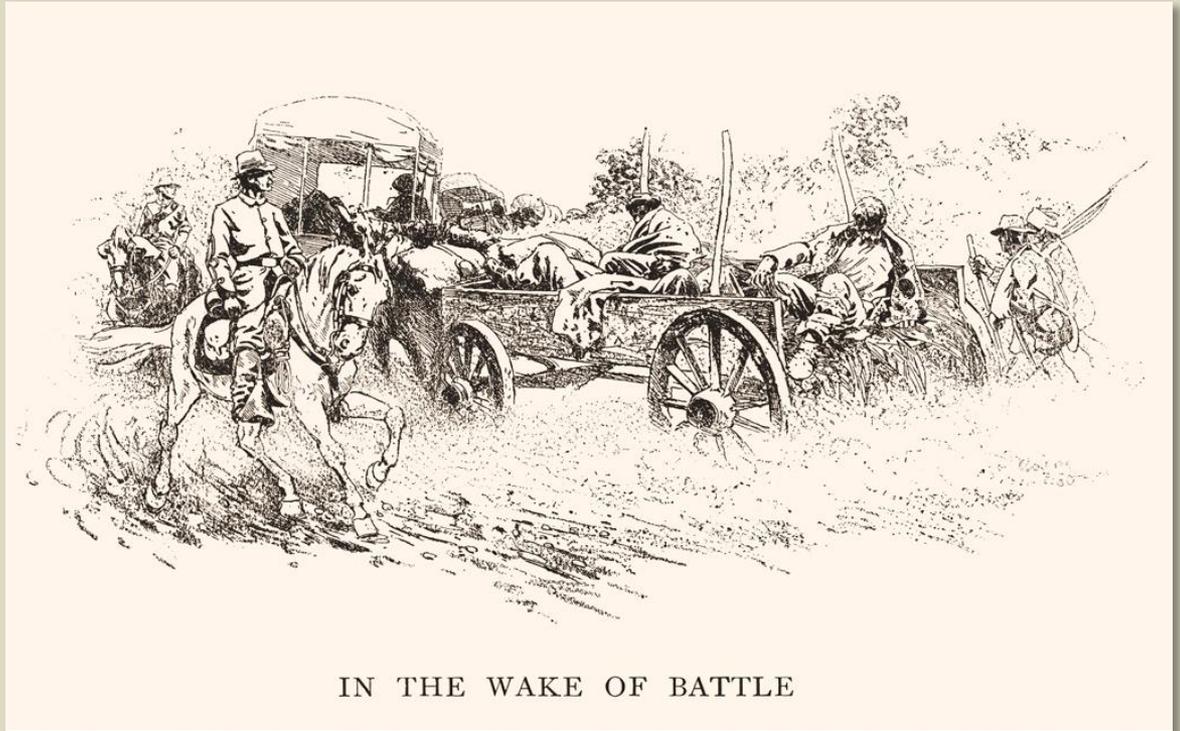
The Burnside Bridge

About 500 Confederates held this area overlooking the bridge for three hours until General Burnside's men finally captured it and crossed Antietam Creek.



Results of the Battle

The Battle of Antietam ended Robert E. Lee and the Army of Northern Virginia's first invasion into the North



The Confederate Army Retreats Back to Virginia

Results of the Battle

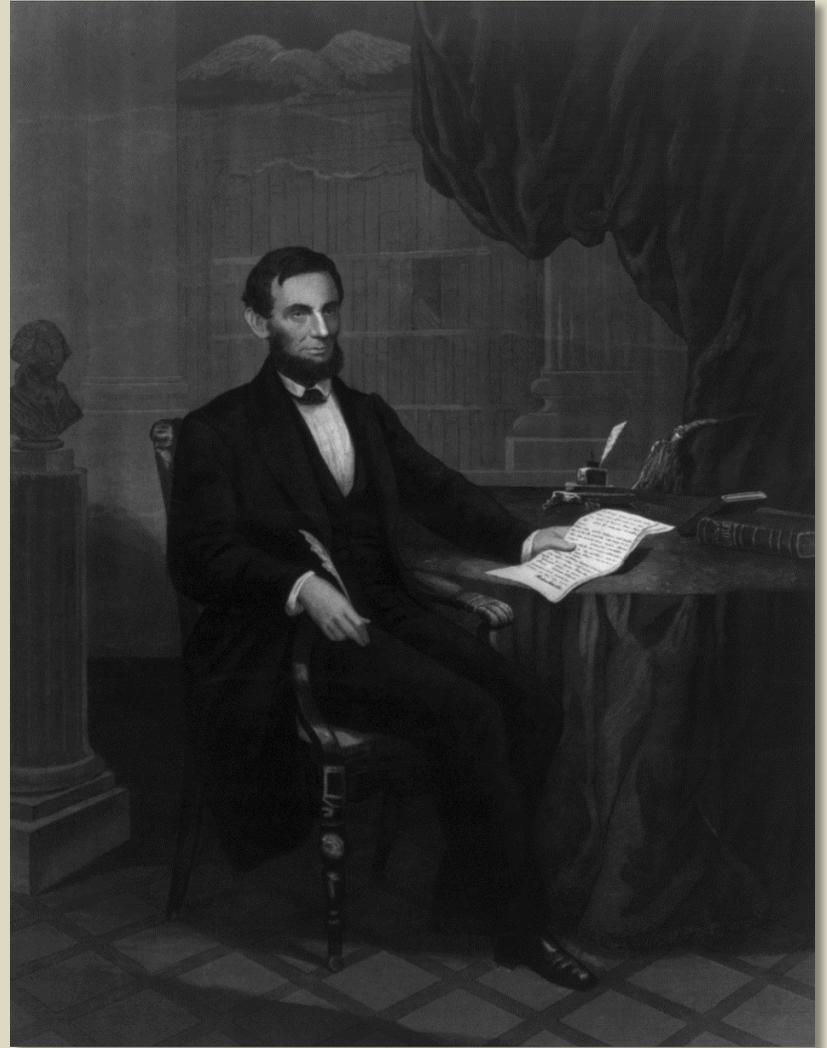
The Battle of Antietam was the bloodiest single day battle in American History. 23,000 soldiers were killed, wounded, or missing in a twelve-hour period.



Dead soldiers in front of Dunker Church.

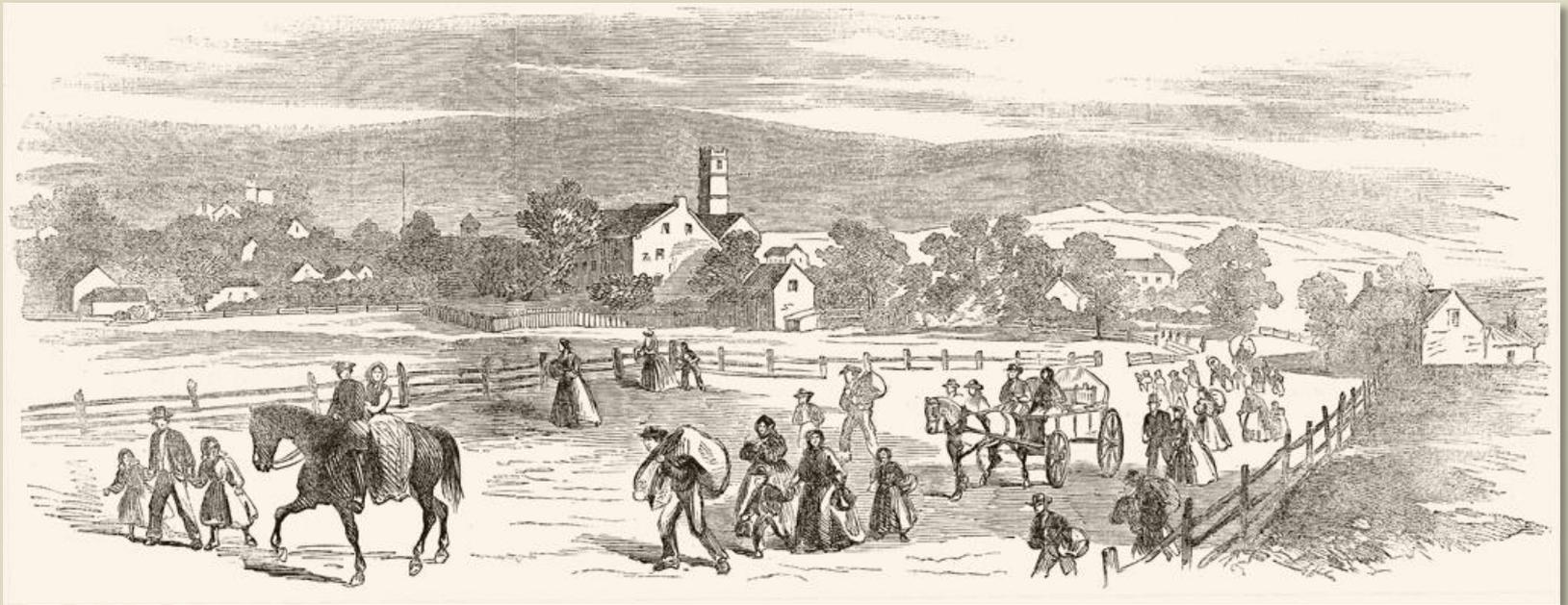
Results of the Battle

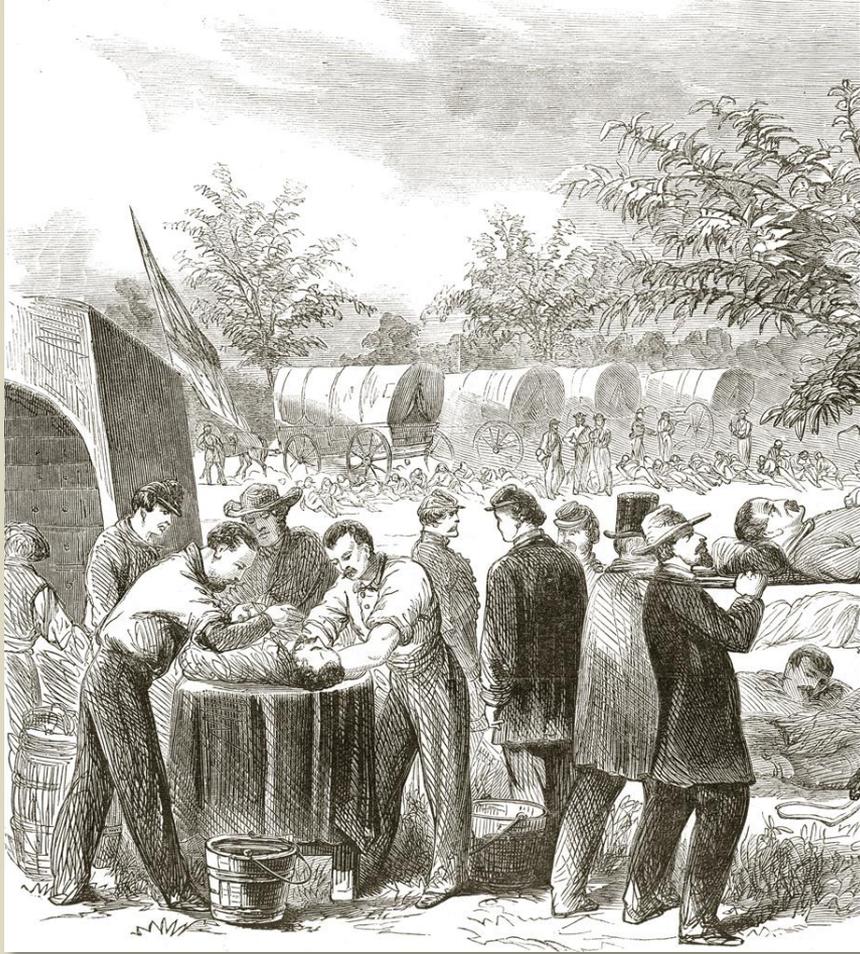
This battle also resulted in President Lincoln issuing the preliminary Emancipation Proclamation



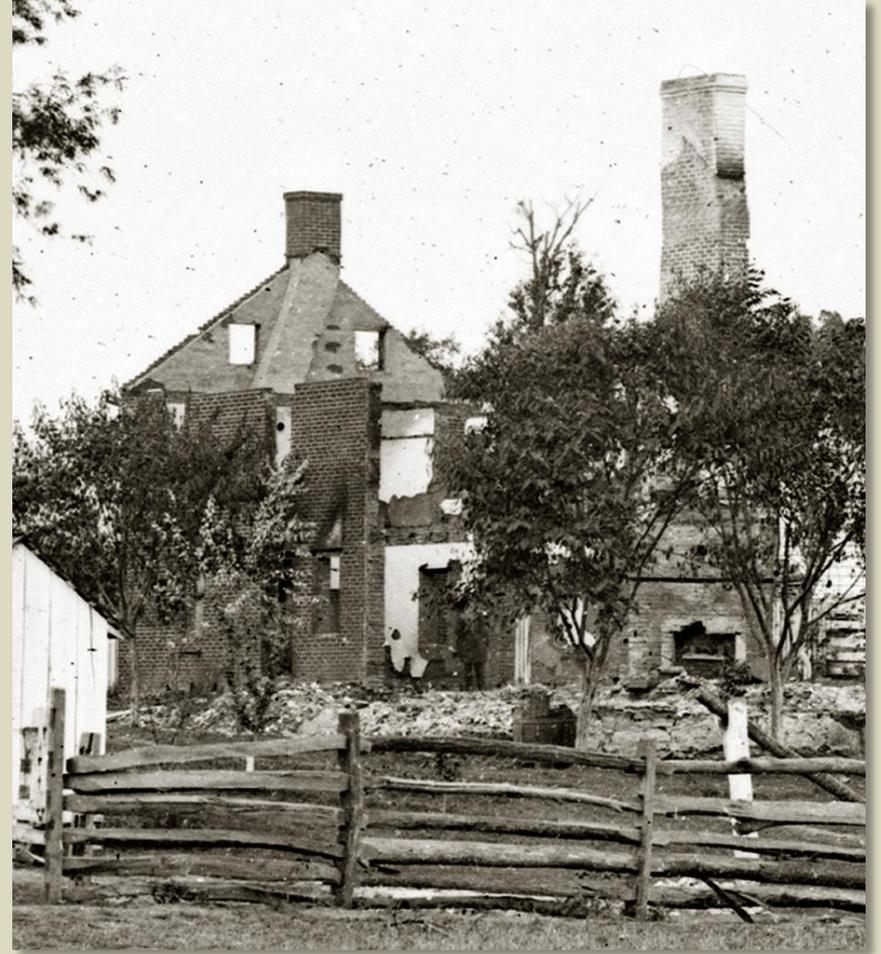
The Aftermath in Sharpsburg

Afterwards, the battlefield became a vast hospital and burial ground. Local residents returned to a scene of devastation.





Surgeons try to care for the 19,000 wounded



The Mumma family farm was destroyed

Clara Barton helped the doctors take care of the wounded



Soldiers were buried in mass graves where they fell until they were reburied in area cemeteries several years later.



Antietam Battlefield Today



Dunker Church

Antietam Battlefield Today



Bloody Lane

Antietam Battlefield Today



Burnside Bridge

Antietam Battlefield Today- National Cemetery

